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Elder Uchtdorf Presides at Tucson Temple Groundbreaking



Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, second counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and his wife, Harriet, were interviewed by the media following the Tucson Temple groundbreaking ceremony. Afterwards, they took time to personally greet and shake hands with all those in attendance who wished to do so.

Photos by John Power, Biltmore Photo



Sister Harriet Uchtdorf and Elder Dieter Uchtdorf, second counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (center) are joined (on their right) by Elder Kent F. Richards, executive director of the Temple Department, and his wife, Marsha, and other dignitaries as they turn over the first shovelfuls of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Tucson Arizona Temple.



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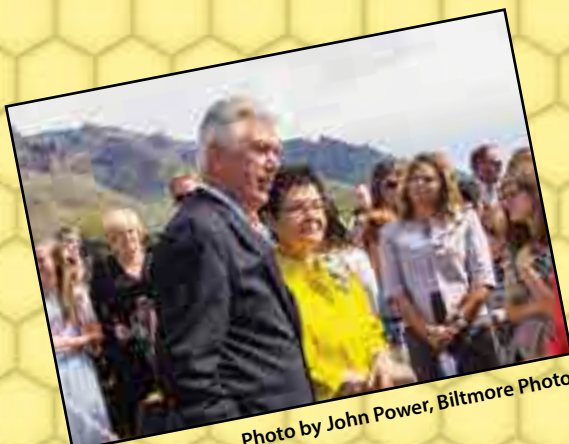


Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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COVER Story

Elder Uchtdorf Presides at Tucson Temple Groundbreaking

A seven-acre site, nestled against the Catalina Foothills and with a striking view overlooking the north Tucson area, was dedicated on October 17 by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, as part of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Tucson Arizona Temple.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

President Uchtdorf told the nearly 500 people gathered at the site and the many others listening in via the live broadcast to local stake centers that he had readily volunteered for the assignment.

"We have a very personal relationship to Arizona," he said, explaining he received his training and certifica-

tion to fly the 727 aircraft in Tucson in 1965 and, from 1975 to 1978, he and his family lived in Phoenix.

He said the temple in Tucson is "a symbol of the focus we have as Church members."

"Throughout history, the Lord has

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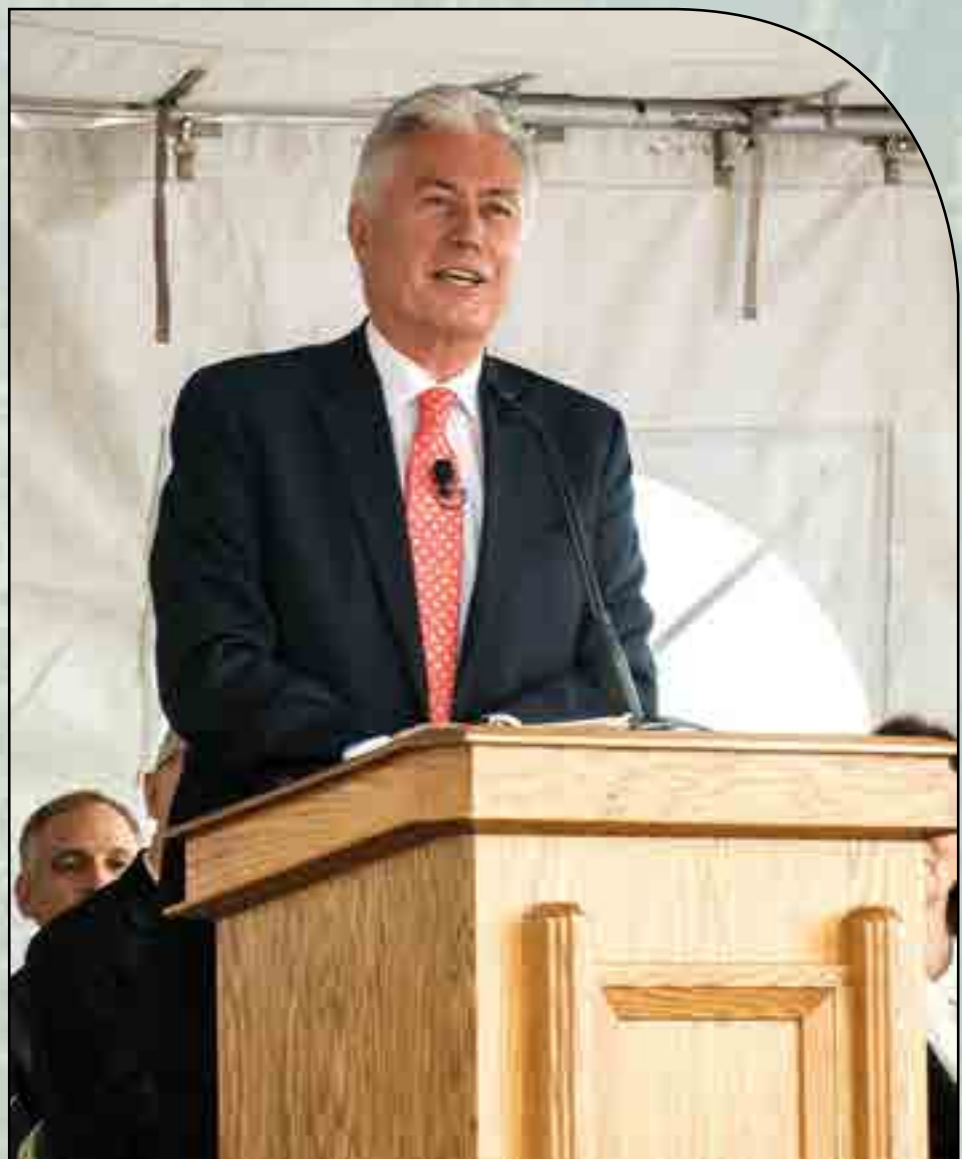


Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

At the Tucson Arizona Temple groundbreaking ceremony on October 17, Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, second counselor in the First Presidency, said members of the first presidency typically don't attend groundbreakings and he was grateful to have the opportunity to be in Arizona where he has a "special personal relationship."



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Tucson Temple Groundbreaking Continued from pg. 3

commanded his people to build temples. The temple is literally the house of God," President Uchtdorf said. Temples are "holy places where we make sacred promises to God and receive sacred promises from God."

"In temples," he continued, "eternal questions are answered, holy truths are taught." Temples are "where earth and heaven meet" and "where we can feel close to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ."

President Thomas S. Monson announced plans for a temple to be built in Tucson during his opening remarks in the October 2012 Semi-annual General Conference. The Tucson temple will be the sixth in the state, with temples currently operating in Mesa, Snowflake, the Gila Valley, Gilbert and Phoenix.

The plans call for a two-story, 34,000-square-foot temple and renderings show that, rather than a steeple, it will have a dome-shaped cupola, similar to that of the San Xavier Mission in south Tucson.

President Uchtdorf referred to the "beautiful vegetation" in the area and the saguaro and other cactus plants that have been transplanted to an on-site nursery during construction, but will become part of the

landscaping around the temple. "Be ready to come and grow and be close to Heavenly Father," he said, "and that starts by being grateful ... everything we now do can and should be a symbol of gratitude."

He also counseled, with the breaking of ground for a new temple, "This is a time to break ground in our own hearts and souls as individuals, as families and as a community," and to "rededicate ourselves" to being "temple ready when the day of dedication comes."

Also speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Elder Kent F. Richards, of the Second Quorum of the Seventy and Executive Director of the Temple Department.

"There is always a certain amount of sacrifice in building" the kingdom of God, Elder Richards said. "He always expects and requires that we give of ourselves. ... What is our sacrifice?"

Elder Richards continued, "Tucson will no longer be a place where people go from to attend the temple. Begin now to build your own temple of faith and devotion."

He also suggested that the members in that area begin working to find names to take to the temple, "So you will be able to fill it and keep it busy."

Lynn G. Robbins, of the Presidency



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

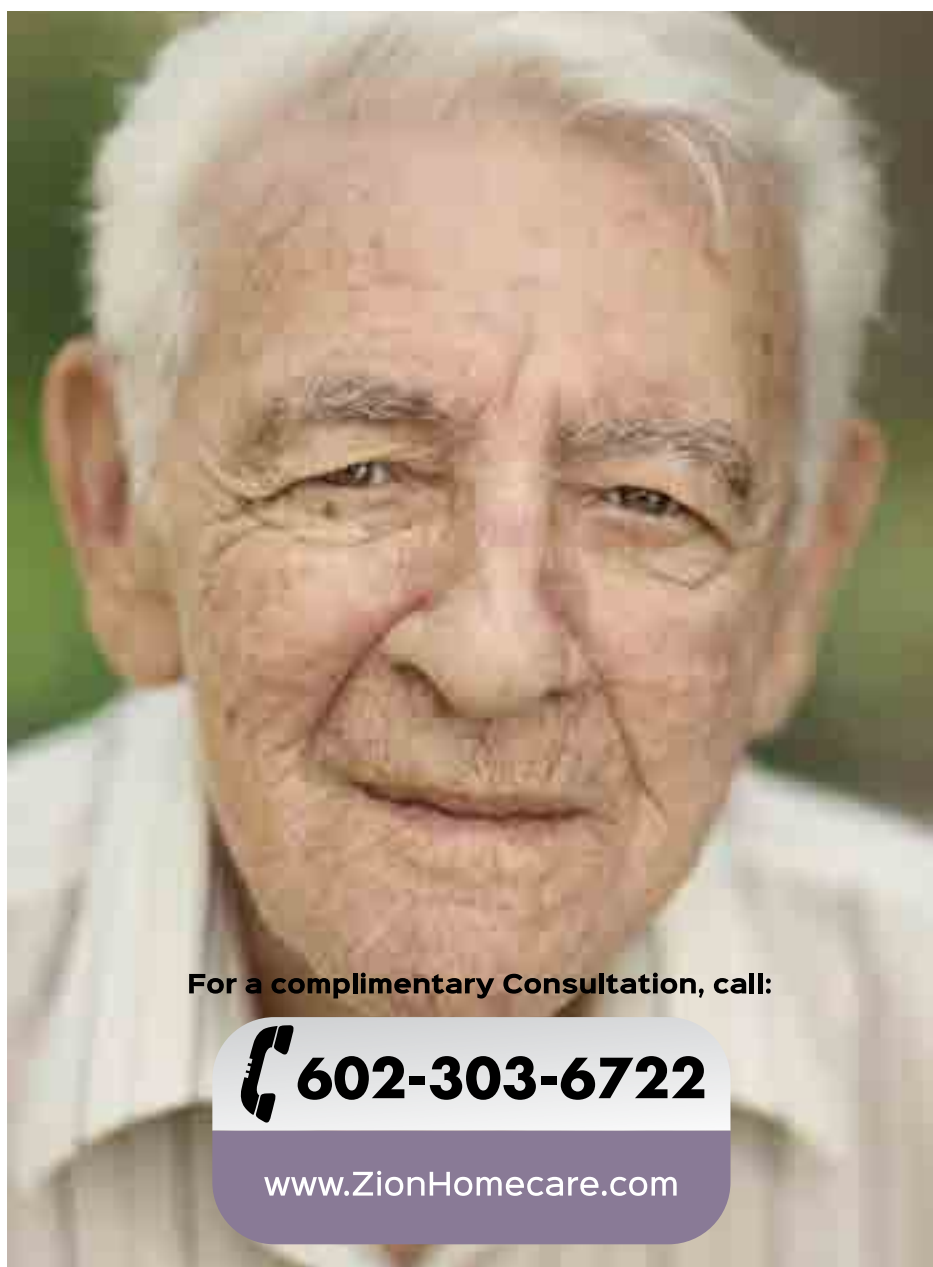
Following the groundbreaking ceremony for the Tucson Arizona Temple, families, such as Michael and Jenny Haymore and their children, Caleb and Hannah, of the La Canada Ward in the Tucson North Stake, were invited to turn over a shovelful of dirt and to take pictures in front of the rendition of what the finished temple will look like.

of the Seventy, said, while Latter-day Saints in the Tucson area have looked to the groundbreaking with eager anticipation, the neighbors may not be so enthusiastic. "Several are worried, skeptical and suspicious," he said, adding Church members can help change those perceptions from negative to positive and even to awe.

"I testify that temples are the house of the Lord," Elder Robbins said. "This is a special time for us to prepare for its consecration and dedication."

Gary Rasmussen, chairman of the groundbreaking committee and a member of the Tucson Stake, also spoke as part of the ceremony, saying, "The groundbreaking is a symbolic event, a type. It's an opportunity to evaluate the soil in our own lives and hearts ... and to take some of the stones out and cast them away, to knock down the hills of pride..." and to otherwise prepare to be called a

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Tucson Temple Groundbreaking
Continued from pg. 4



Photo courtesy the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

A groundbreaking ceremony on October 17 marked the official start of construction on the two-story, 34,000-square-foot, mission-style Tucson Arizona Temple, shown in an artist's rendering above.

Zion people.

Members in the Tucson area look forward to the temple's completion and dedication, but already they have seen the good that can come even while the temple is under construction.

"We have been counseled to

hasten the work, and we have seen significant growth in this area," said Todd Polley, Tucson North Stake president.

Evidence of that, perhaps, was the creation of the new Marana Arizona Stake from the Tucson West Stake on October 25, just over a week after the groundbreaking.* That brings the

total to six stakes in the city of Tucson, with three additional stakes—the Sahuarita Arizona Stake, Sierra Vista Arizona Stake, and St. David Arizona Stake—in the surrounding area. While it has not yet been officially announced, it is anticipated that the Tucson Arizona Temple district will serve these nine stakes and the more than 30,000 Church members that make up those stakes.

"The temple is evidence of the many faithful members in Tucson that have made it possible and of Heavenly Father's love and mindfulness of us," President Polley said.

"I personally am so excited that my children get to grow up having this temple close by. It's wonderful," said Tammy Whitker, of the La Canada Ward, whose husband, Bradley, is first counselor in the Tucson North Stake presidency.

Their 26-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn, said, "I attended the Gilbert Temple Open House and had promptings that it was time for me to go to the temple.

"Now I have my endowments and I am so excited that we will have a temple in Tucson," Kaitlyn said.

Caleb Haymore, 12, whose father, Michael, is bishop of the La Canada Ward, Tucson North Stake, said he, too, is excited about having a temple in Tucson, "especially now that I can go to the temple. Going to the temple to do baptisms for the dead can bring the

spirit into our lives. It has strengthened and developed my testimony of temples."

Caleb's mom, Jenny, said, "There are a lot of temple-loving members here. It will be a treat to have one so close. For a lot of people it is a bit of a sacrifice to go now, and it will be extra special to have a temple so easily accessible in our community."

Speaking to members of the media and others after the groundbreaking ceremony, Elder Uchtdorf spoke in behalf of the prophet, saying, "President Monson loves all people and feels very close to the members. He would like us to keep the commandments and to trust the Lord. It's complicated, and, at the same time, it's very simple. Keep the commandments and trust the Lord."

In that regard, he said, the temple can be a new beginning.

"The temple offers a big contrast to the world. It can help us with every situation. It will bless all of your lives, whatever you do."

His wife agreed. "This is a joyful gospel we have," said Sister Harriett Uchtdorf, "and the temple is like coming home."

*Please note that because of the creation of the new Marana Arizona Stake, some of the references to callings or to the stake or ward where individuals reside may have changed since the groundbreaking.

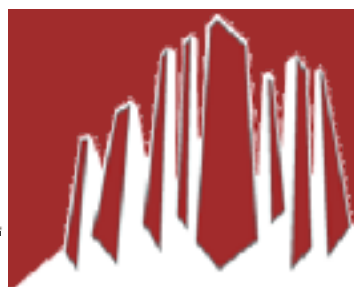


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Newly Remodeled

Visitors' Center Features Interactive, Inspirational Displays

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

After undergoing several weeks of renovation, the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center has reopened, in time to welcome visitors during the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights.

"We are thrilled to have several new exhibits that will enhance the Center," says Elder Scott Cameron, Visitors' Center director.

One of the new displays is called "Eight Stories." The display follows eight missionaries on a daily basis, depicting what actual missionary service is like. The lives of the missionaries and the people they teach are shown, as well as how the missionaries' lives develop after they complete their missions. The display also shows how life changes for the people the missionaries teach once they become converted and join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"These are actual stories, filmed live, and so depict missionary work as it actually is," says Elder Cameron.

Another exhibit is titled; "I am a Mormon." This exhibit tells the stories of 25 members of the LDS Church and depicts how the gospel affects these individuals' daily lives.

The third exhibit promises to be a favorite for many. The interactive exhibit is centered on the Book of Mormon and allows visitors to have a unique experience, as it uses a video presentation to portray the doctrine of Christ as it is taught within the pages of the Book of Mormon.

"We are thrilled to have these new exhibits," Elder Cameron explains, adding, "These exhibits have been previewed in the North Visitors' Center at Temple Square in Salt Lake City and at three other Visitors' Centers around



Photo by Cecily Markland

After a closure of several weeks, the director of the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center, Elder Scott Cameron, along with his wife, Sister Christine Cameron, are excited to learn more and to become familiar with the new, interactive displays that are now open and are designed, among other things, to introduce people to the Book of Mormon, to give them a sense of what it is like to be "a Mormon" and to help them understand more about missionary work.

the United States, and the response has been very enthusiastic."

He continues, "We know that both members of the Church and our friends of other faiths will find additional interest in the Center."

The newly renovated Center will be of interest to families and to youth groups as well. "Of course, the Visitors' Center and the beautiful Arizona Temple grounds are open to all. We welcome you and look forward to seeing you soon," Elder Cameron says.

The Mesa Temple Visitors' Center is located at 525 East Main Street in Mesa. During the weeks of the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights event, November 27 through December 31, the Visitors' Center will house an international nativity display and will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. After that, the Center will return to its regular schedule, with the Center being open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. To contact the Visitors' Center, call 480-964-7164 or email VCArizona@ldschurch.org.

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New Feature Makes Mesa Temple Christmas Lights Equally Beautiful Day and Night

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Mesa Temple Christmas Lights are known for presenting a dazzling display of color and light, attracting thousands of visitors each year. This year, a new addition will help “make the displays as beautiful in the daytime as they are at night,” says Stacey Farr, director.

Sister Farr, of the Mountain Vista Ward, Skyline Stake, says some people don’t understand what the figures and various scenes represent. Now, display stands have been constructed. “Each has a scripture, a quote from the prophet, and a QR code, that can be scanned with a Smartphone or iPad and it goes directly to the Mormon Channel and teaches a little about the scene.”

“With this addition, the grounds will be very beautiful in the daytime as well,” Sister Farr says. “People who may be hesitant about driving at night will be delighted to enjoy this new feature during the day.”

These stands, created by Brad Alg-

ers, are “part of a whole new dynamic happening with the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights.”

“The temple lights were started as a gift to the community many years ago,” Sister Farr says. She says, as a committee, they’ve considered, “How else can we give?”

In that spirit, Stacey’s older brother, Keevin Willis, who is in charge of construction projects with the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights, found a way to involve other contractors in a special act of service. “Our dad, Ronald Willis, passed away a few years ago,” Sister Farr explains. “Over the years, he had taught many contractors how to build. As a tribute to him and all he did for them, 12 to 14 men have donated their time and materials to build a stage for the musical performances during the lights.”

On the newly constructed stage, 25-minute concerts will be held nightly at 7 p.m. between December 1 and 25.

“It has been the sweetest thing to



Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

In addition to the dazzling display of colorful lights, the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights will offer an interactive feature this year that is meant to make the display attractive to visitors during the day as well as at night.

see how these men have felt so honored to give this gift,” Sister Farr says.

Others, too, have taken to heart the idea of giving more through the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights. “The creativity has been phenomenal,” she says. “New lights have been built,” and, inside the newly renovated Visitors’ Center, Susan Fuller has come up with new ways to stage the nativity sets for this year’s exhibit.

“The ways they will be displayed is exciting and will complement the new Visitors’ Center displays and create a unique experience,” says Sister Fuller.

In addition, “Young single adults in all five missions in Arizona have truly

given the gift of Christmas. By the time they get done with setting up and taking down, and helping with parking and in the Visitors’ Center, about 1,200 to 1,500 young single adults,” under the direction of Randy and Francis Grant, will have helped.

“The Mesa Temple Christmas Lights would not be as grand or as beautifully done without these young adults.”

Sister Farr adds it is heartwarming to see families serving together as well.

For example, like other families, Dale and Donna Barker and their

Continued on pg. 11



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Former Professional Football Player, Monk Bailey, Dies at 77

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Claron Everett “Monk” Bailey, died at his home in Queen Creek, on June 18, at age 77.

A native of Moab, Utah, Monk was well known for his prowess in sports. He was a four-sport letterman at Grand County High School in Moab, and he went on to play football at the University of Utah, where he led the Utes in rushing in 1958 and 1959 and, that year, was named All-Skyline Conference fullback. He played professionally, in the NFL for the St. Louis Cardinals and in the CFL for the Toronto Argonauts and, for many years after that, he coached at the high school and college level, including at Bloomsburg, Bucknell, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Southern Virginia University, Weber State and Dixie State.

In addition to his success on the gridiron, Monk was known for his larger than life attitude and his unwavering testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

But, it wasn’t always that way, says Monk’s son, Everett Bailey, who lives in the Augusta Ranch Ward in the Eastmark Stake, but is currently serving in

the bishopric of the YSA Indigo Bay Ward.

Everett explains that, while Monk’s wife, Kristine, had grown up in and Latter-day Saint family and was a descendant of Mormon pioneers, “Dad’s family wasn’t religious at all.”

In fact, Everett says, “My grandfather didn’t have a very positive view of the Church.”

After Monk signed with the Cardinals in 1963, he and Kristine moved to St. Louis, and there she became involved with the ward members, who also reached out and befriended her husband.

“They had a young marrieds’ group there, and they invited him to social events, to play sports, to help with projects and other activities,” Everett says. “It was a huge part of his conversion to get to know members of the Church in a social setting, without a lot of pressure.”

When the Bailey’s moved to Canada, they were again welcomed by Church members. “These members in St. Louis and Toronto were good people, good friends and good examples,”



Photo courtesy Everett Bailey

Known for his accomplishments in sports and his deep conviction to the Gospel, Claron Everett “Monk” Bailey, shown left, with his son, Everett Bailey and his grandson, Carter Bailey, passed away in June.

Everett says. “They helped him to get some footing in the Church.”

Then, “once he committed and was baptized, his faith and his testimony never waned,” Everett continues. “He paid tithing, fasted, prayed, and he read the Book of Mormon several times over. He had this unbridled enthusiasm for the Gospel and for gospel discussion, and his love and passion were contagious.”

Monk particularly loved missionary work. “It was a big part of who he was,” Everett says. “Dad was very competitive. He was big and strong and fast, and he would not give anyone an inch on the field.”

But, at the same time, Monk was

the first to embrace anyone who was visiting or investigating the Church, “and he was always inviting anyone who was new to come to our house for dinner.”

He was generous with his time and his money, Everett says. “He was always helping someone.”

His caring attitude and his desire to look out for others were demonstrated in his callings as well. Monk served in many positions, including as branch president of a single adult branch in Plainview, New York.

“He touched many lives. He was a kid at heart and had a way of making everyone feel like a friend,” Everett said. “He will be missed.”

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Phoenix Sawmill Turns Downed Trees into Beautiful "URBAN LUMBER"

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Sonoran desert is known for cactus and creosote, but thanks to a unique sawmill near Sky Harbor Airport, more and more people are finding the Phoenix area is also home to some of the most beautiful and rare lumber-producing trees in the world.

According to co-owner Rex Condie, Wine Glass Bar Sawmill, "is part of the urban lumber craze"—where sawmills in metropolitan areas are "repurposing" trees used in landscaping and turning them into lumber for mantels, counter-tops, furniture, plaques and more.

Rex, of the Litchfield Park Ward, Goodyear Stake, says the way the sawmill ended up in Phoenix was sort of a fluke.

"My cousin, LaVor [Smith] wanted to build a barn in Idaho," Rex says. "He wanted to use beautiful, rustic wood, and you can't buy that kind from Home Depot."

LaVor did some research, learned

about band sawmills being used by serious hobbyists to mill lumber for furniture and crafts, and asked Rex, long-time owner of a Phoenix welding company called Conrex, (dba Burn a Rod), if he could build such a sawmill.

"He planned to take it to Idaho and cut the wood for his barn there," Rex explains.

Rex set to work, happy to be involved in something he had become familiar with as a boy in Preston, Idaho.

"When I was growing up, Dad loved to go into the national forest and get trees. They would sell them for 50 cents each when they wanted them thinned out. A good percentage of our barns, mangers and calf pens were from that lumber."

Rex finished the sawmill, "we put the first tree on it, and it cut perfectly. Without any adjustment, it cut beautiful boards."

They quickly learned two things:



Photo by Cecily Markland

Owners of Wine Glass Bar Sawmill, Rex Condie (l to r) and LaVor Smith and salesman, Steve Roberts, salvage yet another tree, saving it from going into the landfill and, instead, turning it into "urban lumber" for making such things as furniture, crafts, counter tops, mantels, trophies and plaques.

First, the city where LaVor lived would not grant him a permit for a sawmill on his property. Second, there was a demand for a sawmill in Arizona.

"Often trees are downed during the monsoons, or mature trees need to be removed when their roots begin damaging driveways or foundations. Tree removal companies pay a lot in dump fees to haul these trees off. Instead, we could salvage these trees, repurpose them and put them to good use," Rex says.

Since he and LaVor had both worked on their grandfather's ranch, "We chose to use his brand, Wine Glass Bar, as the name of our mill. Grandpa used to joke, 'It's a wine glass without the wine.' He never drank, but he was quite proud of his brand."

Rex says many species of trees in the Phoenix area have been imported from various parts of the world. Sissoo, for example, is a true rose wood from Madagascar, and is "some of the finest wood you can use in furniture." Also found in the Valley is the Hawaiian Acacia Koa, African Sumac, Silk Oak and Olive,

among others. Mesquite trees, too, have beautiful wood, Rex says.

"Every time we cut in to a tree, it's like Christmas. It's exciting to see the beautiful, interesting colors and patterns in the wood."

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He says, "It's been fun creating a business that didn't exist in Phoenix. People appreciate knowing we can take a resource that had been looked at almost as a liability and turn it into an asset."

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Wards, Stakes & Families Participate in National Make a Difference Day

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

The National Make a Difference Day organization believes everyone has the power to make a difference. Their mission statement explains, "No matter who you are or where you're from, everyone has the power to do something that improves the life of another. Whether it's starting a project that helps one person, or working on one that benefits a whole community, every contribution makes a difference."

Stakes, wards and youth groups and families participated in the event on October 25. The Mesa Mountain View Stake had several wards assigned to different projects, such as trimming overgrown mesquite trees, laying granite down at a local trailhead, painting a house and more.

The youth of the Val Vista Ward were assigned to clean a garbage infested alley in their neighborhood. They had several trucks and trailers to haul out discarded furniture, trash, tree clippings and other debris. The group filled five dumpsters from the one alley.

Jim Abney, a member of the stake Young Men's presidency recalled a moment while they were working. "One

lady saw us in the alley and started putting more garbage back there for us from her yard. I immediately reacted with bitterness until I saw two leaders back their truck in and start helping her. They went the extra mile just like our Savior would have, and immediately my attitude changed."

Katie Turley, a Laurel in the ward adds, "It was great to have friends from our ward to work with. I would gladly do it again." When asked how the neighbors felt about their service, she responded, "I don't know if anyone noticed, at least not while we were working, but even though we didn't get any recognition, I got the good feeling that I did something to make my city a nicer place."

Lisa and Dominic Daidone, of the Noble Ward in the Mesa Skyline Stake, volunteered with their two small children, and worked with the Mesa Leadership Program to clean up a community garden and empty lots. Lisa remarks that while she and her children weren't much help, her husband commented that the value was in teaching their children to serve, even at a young



Photo by Celia Hallsted

Youth and leaders from the Val Vista Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake, filled five dumpsters in a few hours cleaning up an alley in their neighborhood as part of Make A Difference Day.

age. Lisa says their son Luke, age 3, must have gotten the message as he kept asking what jobs he could do to help.

Youth in the Ironwood Ward, Queen Creek North Stake, participated in activities the entire week leading up to Make a Difference Day. They had a service scavenger hunt, held a canned food drive and did yard work for neighbors, among other projects. On the 25th, they gathered at a nearby horse property and, as part of an Eagle Scout project, put together a sensory trail that

will be used as therapy for the developmentally disabled, those with sensory disorders and even people suffering from PTSD.

Afton Jensen, a Mia Maid, said her favorite aspect of the week was working with friends in the ward. Collectively the ward put in over 1,000 hours on Saturday alone. "I can't believe we can have that much fun together and get so much done," Afton says.

For more information on Make A Difference Day and its sponsors, visit www.makeadifferenceday.com.

Temple Christmas Lights Continued from pg. 8

extended family of 30 to 40 people, who put up all of the trees on the grass, "demonstrate the principle of 'What can we give?'"

Sister Farr, says, for her personally, "It has been a choice experience to work with my assistant, my husband,

Gary Farr. We have had a delightful working relationship through all this."

The Mesa Temple Christmas Lights, on the grounds at 525 Main Street, are turned on between 5 and 10 p.m. each night from November 27 to December 31. For information, pictures, ways to share the Christmas lights, a list of concerts, and more, visit www.mesa-christmaslights.com.

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Young Women Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children

By Emily Jex Boyle
 The Beehive

Recently the Young Women of the McDowell and Arboleda wards in Mesa's Hermosa Vista Stake participated in a service project at one of the packing sites for the Christian non-profit organization Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). The site in Mesa, at 1345 South Alma School Road, is one of seven established packing sites in the country, three of those in Minnesota and three in Illinois.

At each site, nutritionally complete meals are funded and assembled by donor volunteers, then shipped around the world as part of FMSC's efforts to curb malnourishment and prevent starvation

in children and families worldwide. The meals are made of rice, soy nuggets, dehydrated vegetables, and flavoring and fortified with 20 vitamins and minerals, and they cost less than a quarter to make.

Such packages have reached more than 70 countries since the organization's inception in 1987.

Laura Archibald, Young Women president of the McDowell Ward, explains why they chose this activity for their girls, saying, "Our theme for this year is 'O ye that embark in the service of God.' We asked some of the Young Women to come up with meaningful service projects we could do, and the



Photo by Laura Archibald

Young Women's leader, Cathy Bankhead (center, with broom) participates in a service project with Megan Trendler (r) and other Young Women at one of the packing sites for the non-profit organization Feed My Starving Children (FMSC).

most requested service activity was to serve at Feed My Starving Children." She says many of the Young Women had either been there when they were in a previous ward or had heard from a friend what a fun experience it was to

serve there. FMSC welcomes volunteers ages 5 and up. The site is handicap accessible and duties vary to accommodate the

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Clothing Swaps Benefit the Community

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

A clothing swap is a simple concept: Stake and community members donate gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories; volunteers fold and sort items; then doors open to everyone to take what they want.

Rachel Hanchett attended a clothing swap with her sister several years ago. She saw the benefit for all who participated. Those who donated felt good about their unneeded items going to others who could use them, and “shoppers” provided for their families’ clothing needs at no cost.

She shared the concept with her stake Relief Society president, and, for the past three years, the Mesa Skyline Stake has held a clothing swap each summer. Rachel, a member of the Noble Ward, says, “I’ve been lucky enough to be part of the organizing committee, and I don’t think I could even attempt to put a number on the people helped ... it grows bigger every year.”

The Mesa Citrus Heights stake clothing exchange started about 10 years ago with 10 tables of only kids’ clothes. This year, they filled 36 tables and 12 extra-long clothing racks and over 200 families attended the event. Each year, on Friday morning of the weekend before school starts, those with clothing, backpacks and school items to donate drop them off and sisters begin sorting and placing everything on tables and racks.

Stake Relief Society president,

Candi Davis, says “On Saturday morning our shoppers come, including many of [those] that donated the day before. The payoff is watching families fulfill their clothing needs without spending a dime.”

The Alta Mesa Stake has an eight-year tradition of holding a clothing/gently used household items swap in conjunction with the September General Women’s Meeting.

Angela Nelson, the stake Relief Society president, says “This has not only been a great service project for the sisters in our stake, but has become a



Photo by Valerie Ipson

Several stakes across the Valley hold clothing swaps, where stake and community members first donate gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories, and then often come back to join other “shoppers” who trade for or simply take items for their use.

helpful missionary tool. Our attendance at the broadcast has been increasing every year, as well.”

At the conclusion of the broadcast, they open up the cultural hall and invite all the women eight years old and up to

“shop.”

Mindy Lamb, of the Baywood Ward, has served in a leadership role for Mesa Skyline Stake’s exchange.

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Gilbert Author Publishes Children's Christmas Book

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Jeanie R. Davis published her second book just in time for Christmas. *I Don't Know Why I Did It* is a children's picture book about a big sister who takes over her little brother's chores, including cleaning the stable on Christmas Eve, which happens to be the very stable where the Christ Child was born.

Jeanie, a ward preparedness specialist in the Gilbert Arizona Stake, says, "I was asked to write a poem/story about 'The Straw' for our Relief Society Christmas program."

She says, "A friend told me what I wrote would make a great children's book, so I found a good illustrator and moved forward with it."

The illustrator she approached, Brittany Nguyen, "was one of my Young Women when I was the Young Women's president in our ward," Jeanie says.

Brittany, now a young wife and mother, says she was born an illustrator and has always loved to draw. "When Jeanie and I first sat down to

discuss her story, she asked me to pray for inspiration so that the illustrations could work in harmony with the words to touch the hearts of readers with its sweet message," Brittany says.

"When I picture that time, I see a whole lot of dusty tans and browns. Brown houses, brown floors, brown animals. Not much fun for an illustrator, right? Jeanie and I considered ways to infuse the pages with some life and pops of color. We wanted their garments to be as bright as possible to differentiate them from the comparatively bland surroundings. We worked together on the final color scheme," Brittany says.

Jeanie says the pictures of Jacob warm her heart the most because, "My grandson, Dylan Ethington, modeled for them."

She adds, "My first book, *As Ever Yours*, is very close to my heart. It's a tender love story that takes place in the early 1900s and is based on the true story about my grandparents. I fictional-



Photo by Ashlyn Bishop

Jeanie R. Davis released her first published book earlier this year, a novel based on her own family history, and has now added a second—this one a delightful children's picture book with a message about service, forgiveness and the true spirit of Christmas.

ized it to create a novel that would be fun for anyone to read. It was an incredible experience to write, as I felt their spirits nudging me through the veil."

"Time is always a challenge with writing," Jeanie says, "but, honestly, having battled with multiple sclerosis

for the past 31 years, it is something I can do that gives me purpose. I love to write."

Jeanie is working on another novel. "I love to read clean romance novels

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Mesa Fine Artist

Paints the Elite Women of Arizona

By Emily Boyle
The Beehive

Recently honored as one of Arizona's "Most Notable Women Artists," Gini Heywood was one of a select group of top local artists to participate in a unique three-month-long event that recognized both the artists and the subjects they painted.

Called "The Notable Arizona Women Artists Paint the Notable Arizona Women Achievers Showcase," Gini and the other artists created custom portraits of accomplished Arizona women, ranging from well-known local and national celebrities, philanthropists, educators, government leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists and more. The Gallery of the Chandler Center for the Arts housed the showcase.

Gini says she felt honored to contribute four oil paintings to the showcase. The women she painted were: Debbie Gaby, co-founder and former president of Sleep America chain and founder of Debbie Gaby Charities Foundation; Rita Davenport, legendary pioneer of Arizona broadcast media, New York Times best-selling author

and long-time president of a global corporation; Jody Jackson, popular Fox Arizona Sports Network host and television analyst; and Judge Lynn Toler, veteran of the nationally syndicated TV show "Divorce Court" and author of several books to help couples avoid many of the causes of divorce and heal family relationships.

A member of the Olive Ward, Mesa Stake, Gini began painting when she was 10. She says she always dreamed of becoming an artist. Yet, it wasn't her degree from Herron School of Art or her experience teaching at Mesa Activity Center that made her dream a reality. After graduating from art school and returning to Mesa, she met Michael Heywood, who would later become her husband and who introduced her to the LDS Church.

"As the light of Christ came into my life, I began to see more beauty in the world and my artwork dramatically improved," Gini says.

Her painting titled "A House of Glory" was the image used on the 2012

Mesa Temple schedule card. Another painting, "Christ Is The Head," was displayed at the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center as part of the Christmas nativity display.

Today, Gini works in the Records Office at the Mesa Temple. She says, even in paintings that seem more secular, "My art is a way for me to honor and praise my Heavenly Father, and I strive to instill that same worshipful awe that I feel for Him into the heart of every individual who views my work."

Most of all, she says, "I want to paint my testimony."

She also wants to encourage other artists and, as a way to do so, she co-founded The Ateliers Group, an exclusive artists' support team.

The positive response to the recent Showcase inaugural program set the stage for an expanded, ongoing exhibition titled "The Fabulous Faces of Arizona: The Famous & the Fascinating," which will portray the entire history of Arizona from the 1800s to the present day.



Painting by Gini Heywood

Fine artist, Gini Heywood, depicted in the self-portrait above, was recently honored as one of Arizona's "Most Notable Women Artists."

Also as a direct outcome of the Showcase, Gini was invited to attend the annual Debbie Gaby Celebrity Charity Catwalk at the Omni Scottsdale Resort in Paradise Valley, where she was introduced on stage.

The website, giniheywoodstudio.com, is dedicated to Gini's Showcase paintings. To contact her, call 480-969-2140.

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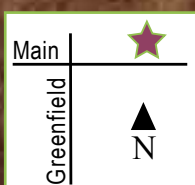
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The Duttons Celebrate 25 Years of Performing Excellence

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Coming from Provo, Utah, with little more than fairly unpolished talent, a lot of practice hours and a desire to have a memorable experience one summer—The Duttons have transitioned to major players in the entertainment industry.

Now with three generations of world class performers, The Duttons will celebrate what they say will be their “most exciting year ever,” kicking off their 25th year as full-time professional performers by bringing their award-winning shows to the Dutton Theater in Mesa, Arizona, for the 2015–2016 season.

The season opens with their award-winning Christmas show Friday, December 11, and will continue with four different shows, one featured each month, until the season finale April 2, 2016.

To make it their most memorable yet, in addition to new, live performances in the Mesa theater and at The Dutton Theater Complex in Branson,

Missouri, The Duttons will release two television specials and will participate in their biggest outreach program ever, partnering with Operation Welcome Home AZ/AZ Wall Project.

According to Sheila, the Dutton family matriarch, they never could have foreseen all this in 1991, when her husband, Dean, took a semester leave from teaching economics at Brigham Young University to take their young family to give 29 concerts throughout Europe, appear on Europe’s largest television network, and then perform what was projected to be two weeks of concerts in the United States.

“We envisioned it being an experience that our children would remember the rest of their lives. Little did we know that our lives would be changed forever,” Sheila says.

To the Duttons’ surprise, 111 concerts were sold in the United States, primarily in the Midwest and Southeast.

“We did not go home for nine months, and ... we have not stopped



Photo courtesy The Duttons

Celebrating their 25th year of performing together, The Duttons will again bring their the award-winning, multi-faceted, highly entertaining, now-three-generation show to the Valley for the 2015 winter season.

performing since,” Sheila says. They quickly learned what the performing lifestyle would be like. During that initial nine months, after Dean’s leave, he returned to his responsibilities at the University and flew to different locations to join the family’s shows on weekends.

Since that time, The Duttons have completed four additional European tours and starred in four international television specials. They have driven millions of miles performing thou-

sands of concerts, including in every U.S. state and in most of the Canadian provinces.

“We have given more than 7,500 shows,” says oldest son, Timothy, now a father of teenagers himself. “Simply surviving all that is a reason to celebrate our Silver Anniversary!”

Winners of countless awards in Branson, The Duttons were selected to record the theme song for the United Nations’ International Year of the

Continued on pg. 17

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The Duttons Celebrate
Continued from pg. 16

Family and were Top Ten Finalists on NBC's America's Got Talent.

As a way to give back, they have partnered with Operation Welcome Home AZ to bring attention and financial support to the AZ Vietnam Wall Project.

"We selected this project, because we love and honor our veterans, and because we want to give back in a big way for the past 25 blessed years. Our lives are full of sweet memories of exchanges with veterans, who we always honor at our shows," says Amy Dutton Arambulo, show director.

Throughout the Arizona show season, show tickets can be purchased from The Arizona Wall Project, at

www.azwallproject.com, and 100 percent of proceeds will go to the project.

"You can also contact AZ Wall Project to sponsor a veteran and their family to see the Duttons Show," Amy says.

"We are excited about this anniversary year, and we invite everyone to celebrate with us," says Jonathan Dutton. To do so, he says, "Come to live show, give a gift of show tickets, reserve a seat for one of our television tapings, sign up for our fan cruise, or come and see us in Branson."

For more information about The Duttons, to purchase tickets or to learn about their silver anniversary packages for your group or family, call 480.840.6874 or visit www.theDuttons.com. The Duttons' Mesa theater is located at 7420 E. Main Street.

Gilbert Author
Continued from pg. 14

and hope to publish my own in the coming year," she says.

She adds that she feels she has been blessed in learning the rules of writing through American Night Writers (ANWA), the only worldwide LDS women's writers organization. "I feel very fortunate to have found ANWA, and so many people who have navigated me through the writing/publish-

ing process. I know it's all part of the 'when one door closes...' blessing. I am still learning so much, and have far to go, but thankfully, I have the best people to learn from! I'm so grateful to them and my Heavenly Father."

I Don't Know Why I Did It, is published through Inglestone Publishing and is available on www.inglestonepublishing.com and www.amazon.com. Or, to purchase books or contact Jeanie, visit JeanieRDavis.com.

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Family History Library Marks 30 Years of Family Treasures

The popular Family History Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah, turned 30 on October 23, 2015. For three decades it has provided the world's most extensive archive of records for people to search for their ancestors.

"The Family History Library in Salt Lake City is unique in all the world," said Diane Loosle, director of the world-renowned library. She explained the focus of the library has

always been to increase access to the world's genealogical records and help patrons make personal family discoveries. "To the family historian, this library is like Disneyland. People dream for years of coming."

Before the library opens each morning (except Sundays), people are lined up waiting to get in for another day of searching their family lines, starting from four generations back to the beginning of time.

Go to the FamilySearch Blog to read more about this milestone.

Virginia Community Gets Boost From Church Food Donation

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently collected thousands of pounds of food to assist food banks in Virginia, reported The Roanoke Times on November 2, 2015. Salem's mayor, a state senator and other dignitaries were in attendance at the Feeding America Southwest Virginia location in Salem, Virginia, where the Church provided 30,000 pounds of food.

"We are nearing crisis-shortages of food to help feed the region's food insecure," said Pamela Irvine,

president and CEO of Feeding America Southwest Virginia. "We are especially grateful for this large scale donation at this time from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints."

Irvine added, "Far too many of our neighbors, including children, are still having to go to bed hungry."

"A donation of this size equals \$28,000, and will provide over 25,000 meals" in our region, added Jenny Doud, vice president of external affairs for Feeding America Southwest Virginia.

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All in the Family— Seven Brothers, Seven Eagle Scouts

By Ann Barnes
The Beehive

Ecstatic! Beyond ecstatic. Those were the words Carol and David Hartwig used to describe how they felt as they watched their seventh son Jacob, age 16 receive his Eagle award recently. What made this such a special event is that Jacob is the seventh and youngest of the Hartwig sons to earn the distinguished Boy Scout honor.

The Hartwigs, who live in the Estrella Ward, Buckeye Arizona Stake, have been avid scouters since their oldest son Robert became a cub scout. Carol was the wolf den leader at that time. Both mother and son loved scouting. “It just stuck,” she said. Robert’s brothers all embraced the scouting program just as he did. And dad was no exception. “Each brother set an example for their younger brothers,” said Sister Hartwig. There is a twenty-year span of scouting between Robert and Jacob filled with scout activities and merit badges. The family consists

David and Carol and their sons Robert, Dean Russel, Matthew, Bradley, Ryan, Eric, and Jacob.

These parents of seven active boys firmly believe that scouting is a family affair. “We believe that parents need to be actively engaged with their scouts,” said Brother Hartwig. By actively involved he means supporting them any way possible. He has done just that by participating in many of his sons’ troop activities, going to scout camp, helping with merit badges, going on three day trips to a Boy Scout camp in Colorado and rafting down the Colorado River.

“We’ve been very impressed with our scout leaders,” commented Sister Hartwig. Both the Hartwig’s expressed deep gratitude for the leaders their sons have had throughout the years. The family has moved several times and each time one of the first things they wanted to know about their new ward was about the Young Men and whether there was an active scouting program.



Photo by Jesus Elizondo

Jacob Hartwig, front row, far right is the newest Eagle Scout in David and Carol Hartwig’s family of seven boys. Pictured with Jacob are his brothers Robert, Dean Russel, Eric, and Jacob in the front row. In the back row are Matthew, Bradley, and Ryan.

Becoming an Eagle Scout was an expectation in the Hartwig household, just as was going on a mission. “The boys didn’t necessarily all obtain their Eagle Rank by the time they were sixteen, but they all knew they couldn’t get their driver’s license until they did,” said Sister Hartwig.

They all agree that obtaining the rank of Eagle is more than just working on merit badges and doing an Eagle project. There are other requirements included in the Eagle packet that must be done before turning it can be submitted for approval. Writing the Eagle project proposal before the project is

started, doing the project, and writing a report on the completed project are only part of the complete packet. Several other steps are also required. Accepting and meeting the challenge of becoming an Eagle Scout offers long-term effects. The development of leadership skills, taking responsibility, and seeing the project through from beginning to end helps prepare young men for missions and will be useful all their lives. Brother and Sister Hartwig are proud of their sons and are pleased about all the life skills the boys have learned by being in the Boy Scout program.

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After a leukemia diagnosis, San Tan Valley girl recognizes her blessings & finds ways to share

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

From the moment of her diagnosis, 11-year-old Naomi Oakes and her family have made an effort to count their blessings as Naomi battles leukemia. Because of the aggressiveness of her specific cancer, Naomi has been in the hospital almost constantly since late June undergoing treatments to destroy the cancer.

Naomi's mother, Shannon, says, "The very first night that Naomi and I stayed at the hospital ... we both cried in the dark as we reflected on the news we had gotten that day. As we were having our 'pity party,' we started talking about what we were thankful for. We talked about how we caught the leukemia early enough that we were going to treat it successfully. We talked about how with her being the youngest, and my being a stay-at-home mom, I could be at the hospital with her. We talked about all the family and friends that surrounded her with love and the outpouring we saw from the first day. That precedence of talking about what we are grateful for has stayed with us throughout this experience."

Not only are they aware of their

blessings, but this trial has been the catapult for blessing others during their fight over what Naomi refers to as her "bad blood."

The TeamNaomi Facebook page alone has over 5,000 members, all learning about this disease in a very personal way. Members can see the struggles as well as the celebrations as Naomi fights. It is through this social media outlet that leukemia awareness has been brought to the attention of so many.

A video featuring Naomi singing Taylor Swift's song, "Bad Blood," caught the attention of the pop star. When Swift heard that Naomi would not be able to attend her summer concert, she generously donated \$50,000 to Naomi's GoFundMe website set up to help cover medical expenses.

The blessings don't stop there. A family friend heard about the emotional event of shaving Naomi's hair and jumped in with an idea to create Happy Hair Bands for people suffering from hair loss due to chemotherapy or alopecia. (For more information, visit www.happyhairbands.com.)

There have been blood drives, bone

marrow registrations and Swift's "Bad Blood" was performed in sign language at a school talent show.

Goody bags have been put together for cancer patients in local children's hospitals and fundraisers all over the Valley, such as a "Nuke the Leuk" carnival night, have been held not only to raise money but to make people aware of the devastation of this kind of cancer.

"Because of the awareness we now have of childhood cancer, we are dedicated to try to share that awareness with others. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness...gold is the color of the ribbon ... Naomi and I want to spread the message so it is as widely recognized as the pink in October. The more attention it receives, the more funding it will receive," adds Shannon.

Searching for blessings amidst this trial has generated an additional bless-



Photo by Shannon Oakes

While battling leukemia, 11 year old Naomi Oakes, shown wearing one of her Happy Hair Bands, recognizes her own blessings and creates blessings for others.

ing for Naomi and her family. After five months of living in the hospital, Naomi is planning to go home very soon. To follow her progress, search TeamNaomi on Facebook or Twitter.

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Best of Branson
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Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

February Fun
Feb 4 - Feb 27

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March 2016

Su	M	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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27	28	29	30	31		

Young Women Volunteer Continued from pg. 12

abilities of the volunteers. Some of the duties include: measuring and scooping food into pouches, weighing bagged foods, sealing pouches, packing food pouches into boxes, assembling boxes, labeling and several other simple tasks.

Sister Archibald says, "They make it very easy to set up a time to give service."

The user-friendly FMSC website, at www.fmsc.org/volunteer, allows volunteers to sign up, select the packing site and choose a date for their group to volunteer. "One of our young women did the reservation for all of us in just a few minutes," Sister Archibald says.

Susanna Boyle, 13, says she enjoyed participating in the FMSC project. She says, "It was cool to know that we sent food to help people in other countries not just in the United States. It's amazing to see how many boxes could be filled with food so quickly by a small group of volunteers. We had over a thousand meals packed."

Sister Archibald adds, "Feed My Starving Children makes volunteering fun. The young women enjoyed the upbeat, good music that helped keep the work moving along and the energetic and friendly staff inspire volunteers to do their best."

She says, "The staff share real stories of children who have been saved from starvation because of the food that volunteers pack. Learning that 6,200 children die each day from starvation weighs on your heart and inspires you to give all you can. Every Young Woman who volunteered left with a bright smile and expressed the desire to return."

Clothing Swaps Continued from pg. 13

"I have found, in my two years of being involved with the swap, how generous and kind people really are. The first year, my biggest worry was having enough donations of clothing ... That year we received more clothes than ever. This [year], I worried about having enough volunteers to help sort—we had more than enough, and some were there for every sorting shift."

Their stake hosts a blood drive in conjunction with the clothing swap. "We enlisted the help of the missionaries to help sort clothing, but also to run the blood drive. Where the missionaries are, so is the spirit," Mindy says.

Clothing swaps are not for the Relief Society only. Young Men and Young Women of the Mesa Alma Stake recently held a "Back to School Clothing Exchange" as part of their emphasis of this year's Mutual theme "Embark in the Service of God."

Any items left over at the end of these swaps are donated to Deseret Industries and area shelters.

Arizona Big Train Operations open backyard railroads for annual Christmas tour

The Arizona Big Train Operators (ABTO) will hold its annual "Trains in the Garden" Open House and Tours during two weekends in December.

This year's tour includes the indoor train layout at the Cardon Children's Medical Center, along with 14 ABTO members' homes, where the public can see the backyard G-scale railroads in action. The homes are located throughout the Valley, including in Mesa,

Glendale, San Tan Valley and more.

Children of all ages enjoy seeing these layouts, the AZ Big Train website states.

Most of the displays will be open from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday—December 12 and 13 and 19 and 20. Check the website, www.azbigtrains.org for printable timetables, maps, directions and any announcements about closures or running times.

While admission is free, volun-

tary donations will be accepted at each layout. The donations go to support ABTO activity, particularly the maintenance of the layouts at the Phoenix Children's Hospital and Cardon Children's Medical Center.

According to open house organizers, "We welcome new members who may be interested in building a layout or anyone who just wishes to socialize and share the experience of watching trains."



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The Hug Card

Gives People Permission to Hug and to Heal

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Brent and Phelecia Hatch, of the Bridal Gate Ward, Gilbert Highland Stake, are hug aficionados. They have made it their business to hand out hugs and to encourage others to do the same. Their mechanism is a small, plastic card, called the Hug Card, and they say the results are immeasurable.

It all started when two brothers—Brent and Barlow Hatch—living in California, one running a janitorial business, the other driving a taxi for a living—hit upon the idea of creating a credit-card size Hug Card. On the front is a picture of hugging bears along with a heat-sensitive sticker that will change color when an individual puts their thumb on the sticker for a few seconds.

“Then there’s a key that says, ‘If it turns blue, you need three hugs; green, you need two; and so forth. It’s just a gimmick, but this little card gives people permission to hug,” Brent says.

And, according to the response, a hug or two is what many people need.

“Barlow wrote a book called The Hug Book, and we put a Hug Card on the front of each book.”

They quickly saw it was the card, more than the book that drew people in.

“We dropped the book and found 30 or 40 stores where we placed the Hug Cards. We sold out within two weeks,” Brent says.

Within two months, the brothers had quit their jobs and they, along with 10 other employees, were filling orders for Hug Cards fulltime. In seven years, they had sold 3.5 million cards.

“We also received more than 5,000 letters. We received letter after letter, telling us about people’s experiences with the Hug Card. We learned hugs can be healing—even lifesaving,” Brent says.

They also learned that a lot of people are afraid of human contact, or

Photo by John Power

Phelecia and Brent Hatch, of Gilbert, say The Hug Card, by giving people permission to hug, can stem bullying, repair family relationships and can open the avenues of communication and connection.



simply haven’t had enough to feel comfortable.

“Today, with Facebook and all the ways people think they are connecting online, we see less and less human touch than ever before,” Brent says.

He says they had retired the Hug Card, but an incident in their own family drove the point home that hugs could be the answer to many of the problems students face in school today.

The Hatches’ son, McKay, started the No Cussing Club at his school. His goal was to encourage other students to join him in pledging to clean up their language and avoid profanity.

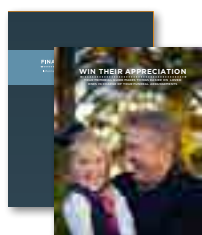
As documented now in a popular Mormonad, McKay’s club made

Continued on pg. 27

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him the brunt of bullying.

"The bullying he went through because he stood up for something right was unbelievable. It brought awareness to our family of just how destructive bullying can be, and we started using the Hug Card to educate people and remind them how they should treat each other," Brent says.

Brent and Phelecia bought out Barlow's share in the Hug Card and have committed to again promote it and to advance awareness of the benefits of hugging.

"Yes, it is a gimmick, but if it works to repair relationships and to get people to show love to one another, it's well worth it," Brent says.

In addition to making the Hug Card available for purchase online, in quantities or individually, the Hatches present at firesides, Relief Society meetings and community workshops, where they teach parents about the Hug Card and nine other effective parenting tools.

"We are losing our kids at an astounding rate. We need to get back to the basics," Brent says. "We all need more hugs."

To order the Hug Card, visit www.TheHugCard.com or to inquire about scheduling the Hatches for an event, call 626-390-0777.



Church Releases New Photo of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently released a new group photo of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, the Church's second-highest presiding body.

The photo (shown above) includes the faith's three newest apostles — Elders Ronald A. Rasband, Gary E. Stevenson and Dale G. Renlund.

In addition to their primary responsibility to be special witnesses of the

name of Christ throughout the world, the apostles have heavy administrative responsibilities as they oversee the orderly progress and development of the global Church.

Just as their counterparts in ancient times were sent throughout the world, the apostles today travel the world to strengthen and encourage Church members, organize new congregations and conduct Church business.

YSA Service for 17,000 Children in Need

Every Monday night in October and November, volunteers from the Mesa East YSA Stake participated in a massive service project at the National Relief Charities, "a nonprofit organization dedicated to quality of life for Native Americans living on remote and poverty-stricken reservations in the Plains and Southwest."

By the end of November, young adults' will have stuffed 50,000 big, Santa stockings with shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper and other hygiene items as well as specific items for boys' stockings and lotions, perfumes, hair items and nail polish for girls.

"It's a massive undertaking," says Heather Sandstrom, whose husband, Paul, is the Stake President. "They said they used to have to pay workers to stuff the stockings. With our YSAs and leaders doing it, it saves thousands of dollars. They can then use the money to feed the homeless and poverty stricken."

"Each Monday, there would be 100 to 200 young adults working as fast as they could. Anytime someone ran out of something, they would call out," and runners would quickly replenish that item, Sister Sandstrom says. "It was amazing to see these young adults work so hard."

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Mesa family creates business based on making others

smile

By Katherine Ogden
The Beehive

Do you remember the feeling you got as a child when you received an unexpected letter from a friend? Or when you received a gift in the mail from your grandparents? Or when somebody left flowers on your doorstep, for no apparent reason? Or when someone high-fived you for an accomplishment that you thought nobody noticed?

That is the idea behind Lemon Letters, the innovative creation of Sherrilyn Bingham, of the Aspen Ward, Kimball East Stake.

"The concept first came to me somewhere in July," said Sister Bingham. "First, I saw a picture of a coconut, with a message on it. Someone in Hawaii was selling them. Then, a short while later, I read about a man in Texas, who puts messages on potatoes. I thought, 'What a clever idea. We should do something like that!'"

She remembered how many lemons grew on the trees on her mother's and grandfather's property.

"We were always trying to give them away," Sherrilynn says.

The Bingham—including mom,

Sherrilynn; father, Brady; sisters, Becca, 16, and Emily, 14, and younger brother, Aaron, 12—got together as a family to talk about it and to see if they thought letters written on lemons would work. They decided to test it out, to see if it could really be doable. First, they test shipped a package to Brady's work, then one to their grandmother in Mesa and to their aunt in Utah, to see how the lemons fared during shipping.

"There were a few hiccups in the beginning," says Sister Bingham, "like when we found out our 4 x 4 boxes had to be replaced with 4 x 6 boxes, to be able to fit the labels and the postage."

"We wanted it to be a family business, so we could all work together," says Sister Bingham.

Today, they each help out. Sister Bingham does the writing or artwork, Aaron helps with picking the lemons, Becca takes care of the shipping and Emily does all the social media stuff. Brother Bingham tested out the different versions of recipes for lemonade, until they found the one that was a family favorite.

Along with the help of a graphic de-



Photo courtesy of Emily Bingham

The Bingham family started a business of making others' smile by sending them messages written on lemons.

signer from work, Sister Bingham got the website launched in August. "Basically, we ship a lemon with a custom message on it," says Sister Bingham. "Each one comes along with a printed recipe for one serving of lemonade."

"Some of our customers have come up with very clever messages, too," says Sister Bingham, "like 'Sending out good, healthy wishes' or 'To my main squeeze, since 2010' or 'When life gives you lemons ... sorry about your injury.' Another customers' sister had just purchased a new car; so the message, delivered on the lemon, was

perfect."

A good portion of the messages are sent anonymously, and the family says that they themselves get a lot of joy from being a part of spreading the happiness and cheer. Their family motto is "Lemon it forward."

The family was recently featured on the Channel 12 news, after news reporter Emma Jade's niece received a Lemon Letter in the mail.

For more information about Lemon Letters, contact the Bingham at www.lemonletters.com or on their Facebook page, Lemon Letters (Just For Fun).

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Mesa Mother of Seven

Publishes Second Book Inspired by Pioneer Ancestors from Denmark

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

Family history takes on specific meaning for a Mesa author, whose two published novels take place in Denmark. Tina Scott, from the North Point Ward in the Citrus Heights Stake, says, "I felt really compelled to write these stories. There are so many books about the Mormon pioneers in the United States but after reading my great, great grandmother's personal history, I thought that would make a really good story."

Because her family had no television when she was a child, Tina grew up reading books. "My favorite place to read was nestled between the branches of our pecan tree. I was perfectly hidden and yet able to keep an eye out for mysterious happenings. That tree and I had a lot of other adventures because I also pretended it was magic and could take me aboard a pirate ship, back to Robin Hood days, or on any number of adventures with Peter Pan and Tinker Bell."

Tina wanted to be an author from childhood but it wasn't until her youngest started school that she was able to put her dream into action. "It resurfaced when I went to college. I loved English 101 and 102, and I took children's literature and creative writing classes as well."

Upon graduation from Chandler Gilbert Community College, she joined a writer's group and spent countless hours learning the craft. "It took a lot of perseverance and practice and re-writing and attending seminars and workshops and buying and reading books on writing," she says. She has since published several articles and two children's books.

Her first novel, *Farewell, My Denmark*, was published in March 2013. Inspired by true events, it is the story of Catherine Erichsen and her family and of the hundreds of Mormon converts who leave their lives behind in Denmark as they immigrate to America in

the mid-1800s.

Tina's most recent novel, *My Sweet Danish Rose*, follows the story of Catherine's younger sister, 15-year-old Berta Erichsen, who does not want to immigrate with her family to America. What she really wants to do is to marry Jens Larsen. She impulsively stays behind in Denmark and finds herself homeless and alone in her Mormon religion. She must make life-changing decisions that will determine the course of her faith, her heart and her future.

Originally written as one book with two main characters, Tina felt like Catherine and Berta deserved their own books to tell their individual stories.

"It took five or six years to go from the one book to the two. I rewrote *Farewell, My Denmark* about 10 times before it was finished."

Tina has plans to include a third

book in the Denmark series, with many of the same characters as well as a new one. She is currently working on rewrites and edits of two contemporary novels and book one in a Young Adult mermaid trilogy.

Tina says, "... dreams turn into goals and aspirations when we work hard and don't give up." She is proving that statement to be absolutely true. Tina's books are available on Amazon.com.



Photo courtesy of Tina Scott

Tina Scott, mother of seven, is the indie author of two novels inspired by her ancestors from Denmark.

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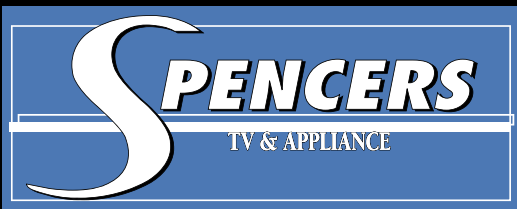
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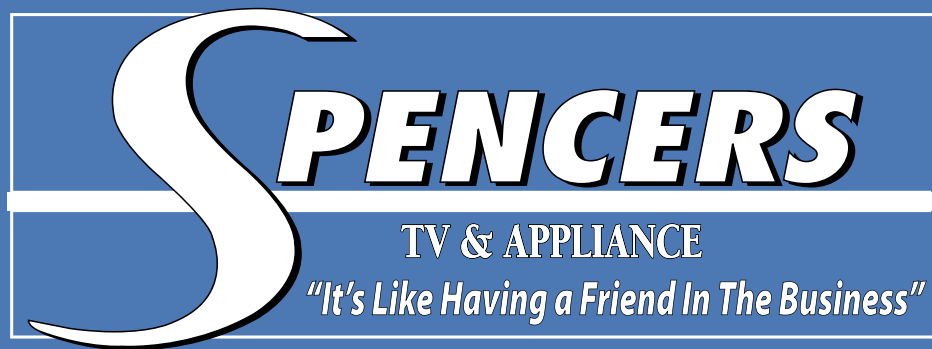
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“Smiles for Central America” Provides Medical and Dental Care for Prospective Missionaries in Guatemala

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

A desire to help others led Dr. Rebecca Runyan Temp to become a dentist. This same desire recently took her to Guatemala with “Smiles for Central America,” an organization that helps prepare prospective LDS missionaries by providing medical and dental care and more. Sister Temp and her husband, Archie, are members of the Crosspoint Ward, Mesa Arizona Mountain View Stake. They are the parents of four children.

Volunteers on these expeditions pay all of their own expenses as well as bring the medical and dental supplies they need. In addition to providing the dental and medical services to help prepare young Central American men and women to serve fulltime LDS missions, “Smiles for Central America” also provides hope, love, and support to those in Central America. The organization’s expeditions include a variety of community service projects.

Becky says, once the group arrived, a “clinic” was set up in a local stake center. Becky says her group included 25 dentists, 5 endodontists and 7 oral surgeons. Her sister, Randi Harris (from Littleton, Colorado), went as her assistant.

“There were also people to run sterilization, check-in, to help with the missionary photos, haircuts, paperwork, medical labs, etc. There were

about 130 people all together on this trip,” says Dr. Temp. “We saw, helped and treated 811 prospective missionaries.”

The clinic days were long, tiring, and rewarding, Becky says.

“The kids would travel up to three hours by bus. After they completed considerable paperwork, we could start working with them. Some days we worked until about 10 p.m., but usually we wrapped up by about 7. We did lots of cleanings and fillings, as well as root canals and extractions. After five full days in the clinic, each volunteer took a half-day humanitarian trip.”

On Sunday, the volunteers drove two hours to attend Sacrament Meeting in a small village. After the meeting, they gave out clothes, toiletries, blankets, white shirts and ties to the members there. They even had donation of princess dresses, superhero capes, and CTR rings to share with the members.

That night they returned to Guatemala City, where they held a fireside for all the prospective missionaries and their families. Afterward, they walked around Guatemala City Temple grounds.

“This trip was much more than just their caring for their teeth. It gave me new perspective about the sacrifices made to serve missions. In the states, it’s more about the missionaries putting their own lives on hold while they serve.



Photo courtesy Rebecca Temp

Volunteer assistant Randi Harris of Littleton, Colorado, (l) and Dr. Rebecca Temp of Mesa, Arizona, (r) visit with a local translator (c) during a quick break between patients they are seeing as part of a “medical and dental missionary prep expedition” to Guatemala.

In Guatemala, these kids are often caregivers and financial supporters for their families. For them to be able to set aside money for a mission is a true hardship. To have them gone for 18 to 24 months, while not supporting their families is a much different situation than we have here,” says Sister Temp.

“However,” she says, “many blessings come to them and their families when they serve. Returned missionaries acting as translators in the clinic told us how serving a mission changed their lives. They learned languages, organization and commitment that would’ve been difficult to learn otherwise.”

Dr. Temp is a partner at Mountain View Family Dentistry in Mesa. She

enjoys being with her family, boating, quilting, and playing board games. She loves serving in the church and has been a nursery leader, Primary chorister, Visiting Teacher coordinator, Relief Society president and teacher, and Sunday School teacher, among other callings.

Sister Temp is looking forward to another missionary prep trip, once her high schoolers graduate.

Along with the dentists and doctors, the Smiles for Central America expeditions require non-professional volunteers as well. Trips are held twice a year. More information can be found at: <http://www.smilesforcentralamerica.com/>



Dispels Myths about Hospice Care

By Robin Finlinson
The Beehive

The compassionate, experienced professionals at Hospice at Home of Arizona want to dispel several myths about hospice and inform the community of the tremendous worth of hospice care to those who could benefit from the services.

Chris Allen, MD, medical director, says their hope is to help people be “as comfortable and as pain-free as possible during this time.”

Hospice isn’t just for someone’s final few days, and it isn’t only for cancer patients. A person whose life expectancy has been diagnosed as six months or less is eligible. Someone might even receive hospice for longer, then have months of remission. It will again be available when the need returns.

Some patients are hesitant to begin

hospice because they want to continue with their primary care physician. Jerry Owensby, MD, the medical director for Hospice at Home of Arizona, works together with a patient’s primary care physician to provide care that is individualized to the patient’s end of life goals.

This year, Dr. Owensby was voted in Phoenix Magazine’s 2015 Top Doc Issue as one of the 15 best internal medicine physicians.

Dr. Owensby is concerned that many people put off preparing for the end of their mortal life. He says the sooner a person chooses a hospice provider, the better the person’s end of life wishes can be met.

“The big message is to get a consultation early, versus later,” she says.

“Don’t be afraid of it.”

Brett Bacchus, director of business development, knows personally what a gift hospice can be to the entire family. His father, Steve, while succumbing to pancreatic cancer, was adamant about not dying in a hospital. During his final five weeks of life, the hospice team treated him in his home and was an incredible support to Brett’s mother.

Since Brett and his brother lived in a different state, they were particularly grateful for that assistance. Steve was kept comfortable enough to enjoy visits with life-long friends and his final days with Brett and the rest of their family.

“Most people want to die in their home,” says Bonna Longo, administrator for Hospice at Home of Arizona.

“And if that’s their goal, our goal is to keep them there too.”

Brett adds that “home is wherever they reside.”

The hospice team includes specially-trained physicians, nurses, social workers, volunteers, bereavement counselors, spiritual counselors, etc. Being Latter-day Saints themselves, Dr. Owensby and Dr. Allen understand the unique perspective of LDS patients and families.

Medicare pays 100 percent of hospice, and most private insurance plans include a hospice benefit. “There are no additional costs to the patient and family,” says Brett.

For more information, see <http://hospicehomeaz.com>. Call 480-478-0643 for a complimentary consultation.

Award-Winning Documentary of Deadliest Shootout in Arizona History, Now on DVD

The documentary “Power’s War,” by filmmaker Cameron Trejo, brings to light a somewhat unknown incident—but what is actu-

ally the deadliest shootout in Arizona history.

More than simply a historical depiction of events leading up to the shoot-

out, “Power’s War” is a study about the effects of war on even the most average of citizens and the catastrophic results of speaking out against said wars,” says

Trejo.

The result is a film that caught many people’s attention. “People have come out of the woodwork to talk about this,” Cameron says.

“Power’s War” had 25 sold-out screenings, 14 of those at the Harkins theaters in the Valley, one in Tucson and, in Payson, it sold out three theaters.

Critics found it interesting as well, and among other awards, “Power’s War” won three “Best Documentary” awards, including at the Logan, Utah, Film Festival, Planet Hall Festival and the Anthem Film Festival, where it captured the Grand Jury prize for Best Documentary and Best Score.

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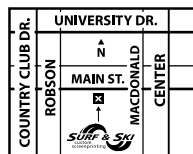


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Don't Stop!

Social media campaign spreads hope for early returned missionaries

By Merry Gordon
The Beehive

Ashley Sargeant is a woman on a mission. It's not the mission she intended. That one ended when, after serving nine months in Brazil, a combination of bipolar disorder and exhaustion made it clear she was too sick to finish the remainder of her planned 18 months in the full-time mission field.

Back home, Sister Sargeant struggled to process what had happened.

"I had so much anxiety about absolutely everything," Sister Sargeant admitted. "Lots and lots of 'what ifs' and not a lot of answers."

As Ashley tried to work through her pain, the words of her first MTC companion—words that would soon inspire a new mission to support fellow early returning missionaries (ERM)—carried her through those dark days of healing: "Whatever you do, just don't stop, Sister Sargeant."

And she didn't.

Instead, Sister Sargeant created Don't Stop, Sargeant! a social media campaign to share hope and support for early returning missionaries and those

with mental illness. There are many reasons why a full-time missionary might return home early from the mission field. One often overlooked factor is mental illness. Having experienced the heartbreak of an early return and wanting to help other ERMs move on in a positive and productive way, Ashley spearheaded a YouTube music video. When that generated an outpouring of gratitude from ERMs who had suffered in silence, Sister Sargeant realized just how great the need for support was. The video turned into a Facebook page, Instagram account, and finally, a full 30-day survival guide for ERMs. The survival guide incorporates Ashley's own videos, conference talks, videos from BibleVideos.org, scriptures and journaling, all centered on a daily theme.

"Nothing like this existed when I returned home early... I'm trying to create what I wish I would have had at that time of my life," Sister Sargeant says.

The Don't Stop, Sargeant! movement comes at a time of increased awareness and discussion of mental illness from the pulpit.



Photo by Romney Olsen

Sister Ashley Sargeant promotes healing and hope in her first music video—Don't Stop Sargeant.

Ashley cites Elder Holland's influence in particular, whom she says "brought awareness to the fact that mental illness is not just something you 'positively think' yourself out of," she says. "It really is, as he described, 'a dark night of the mind.'"

Sister Sargeant's advice for those trying to help an ERM is simple: "Treat that early returning missionary how Christ would." She cautions against prying, even with good intentions. Instead, welcome the missionary with open arms and thank them for their service, Ashley advises. "Do you think that God disqualifies someone's voluntary contribution to building His Kingdom because they got sick or made a mistake and

didn't finish a certain amount of time on their mission?" she asks. "Nope."

Ultimately, Sister Sargeant would like to see an expansion of both print and digital resources for ERMs, as well as education and awareness about mental illness in general. "My hope for the rising generation of early returning missionaries is that their transition home will be a smoother, less shameful experience."

Above all, Ashley has found strength in her trial and joy in knowing her work will help bless the lives of others struggling through similar issues.

"God still had a mission for me," says Sister Sargeant, "and this is just the beginning."

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IN THE MOMMY ZONE...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

The Dreaded Phone Call

The dreaded phone call has finally come. I have never received a phone call like this in all my life. It was from our Stake President and I knew immediately it concerned our missionary son.

Our oldest son served faithfully as a missionary for two years and we were blessed to never have received such a phone call on his behalf. However, our second son, having served only for four months as a current missionary, was the subject. I knew it before a word was spoken. A mother's intuition about her children is usually correct.

That alarming phone call was one of the most difficult moments I have ever endured as a mother.

The Stake President stated our son had been involved in a bicycle accident as a missionary in Guatemala. He had seriously broken his left forearm in three places. Furthermore, the breaks were so severe that he was sent to a faraway hospital for immediate surgery.

Wait. What?

My missionary was gravely hurt, somewhere in a foreign land, and required major surgery. My heart fluttered, literally aching, and my emotions surged.

Then reality hit me. There was absolutely nothing I could do.

I couldn't race to the hospital to be with him. I couldn't pick up the phone to even speak to him. The Mission Home had no current information. I had no idea where he was going or what was happening. All I knew was that my beloved son was thousands of miles away in a third world country, suffering. I was at a loss.

My mind swirled with doubts. Where was this emergency surgery taking place? Who would be operating on my son? Are the doctors licensed? What about the anesthesiologist? Was he in excessive pain? What about infection? He isn't even fully fluent in Spanish...

My psyche reeled with what-if scenarios. I thought my soul would burst with worry and fear.

I felt utterly helpless and heartsick. I wanted to fly there straightaway and take charge, but I knew I shouldn't. I knew I wouldn't. My hands were tied and I was frozen in a dazed stupor, stuck in slow motion, as time passed me by. I had but one recourse and dropped to my knees in fervent prayer. It's all I could do.

I anxiously worried for 24 excruciatingly lengthy hours, hearing nothing, fervently hoping and praying for good news.

In a strange twist of fate, I happened to be randomly checking my emails and a message from my missionary promptly appeared. He said he'd received permission to call home in five minutes and hoped that I would be there.

The blaring shrill of the phone ringing woke me from my nervous trance. I raced to pick it up and heard a familiar, yet weakened, post-surgery voice on the other end. It was my missionary son.

He only spoke for a few minutes and recounted his tale of his frightening injury and subsequent operation. Guatemalan doctors had surgically placed two metal plates into his forearm to hold together his broken bones, inserting about 40 staples altogether on either side. He said his faith, trust, and optimism had helped him through this difficult mission trial.

I listened intently, reveling in the voice I had not heard for four months, basking in my relief.

The phone call ended and he was gone much too soon. I pondered our brief, but profound conversation. This was a harsh test of both of our faiths.

"Don't worry, Mom. I'm OK," he had whispered. "I'm a missionary and I will be blessed."

That's all I needed to hear.

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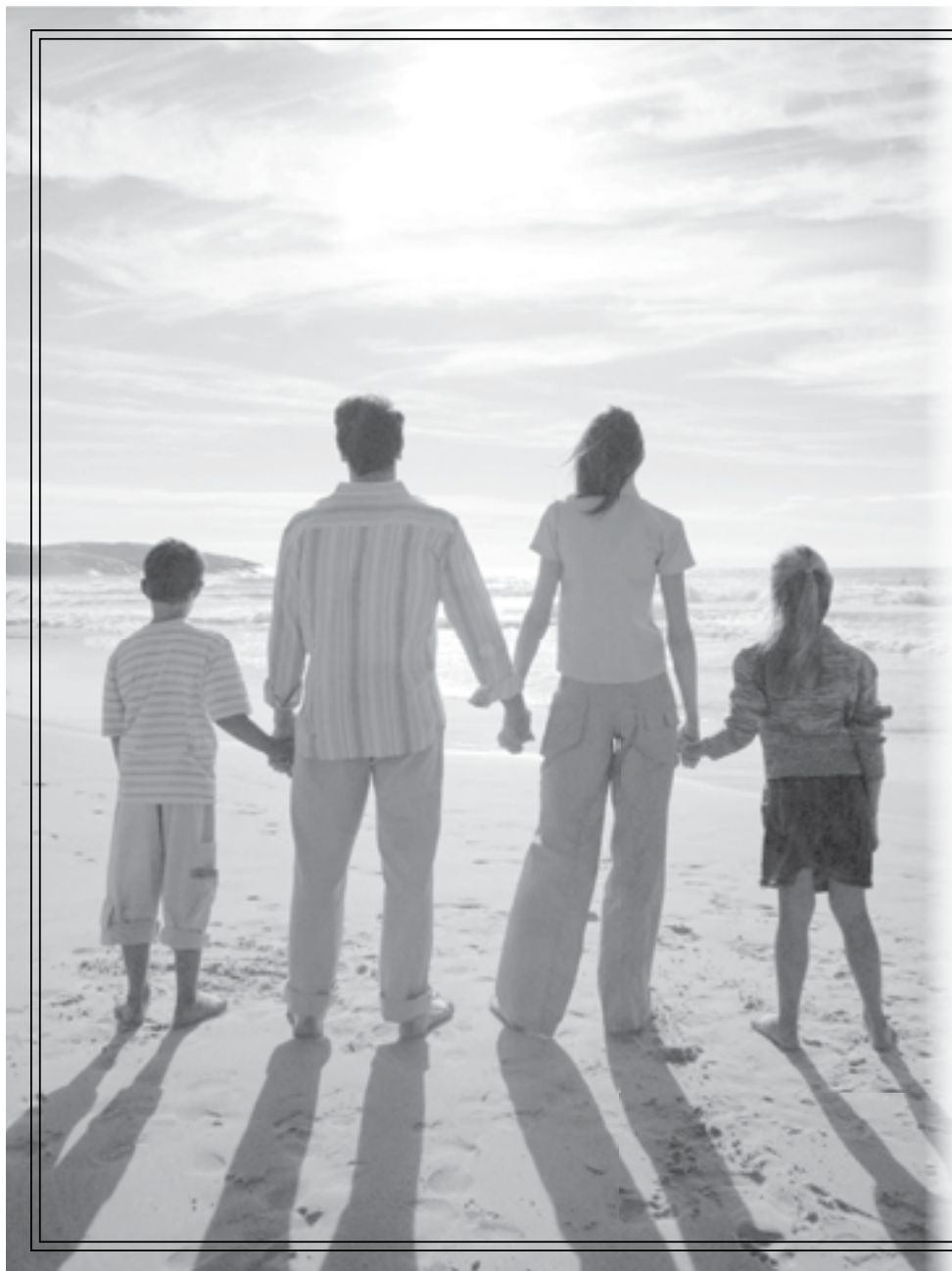
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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

A Lesson in Sunshine

Living in Arizona makes one practically an expert in sunshine, at least expert enough to confidently comment, “It’s hot” when the thermometer hits triple digits. But, for me recently, it took a trip to Tucson, a bit of rain and comments from an apostle to drive home some powerful lessons about sunshine.

At the time, I was basking in a bit of glow of my own—recently engaged and unbelievably happy, I had arrived in Tucson for what I expected would be an exciting day—the groundbreaking of the Tucson Arizona Temple. Little did I know it would also be a lesson in weathering life.

The day was beautiful, with enough cloud cover to get Beehive photographer, John Power, and others who knew about such things, excited about the diffused lighting that would guarantee some nice pictures. At least that’s how it looked at first, until someone on the dais commented on the nice weather.

Almost on cue, the clouds started to do more than diffuse the lighting. It started to rain—and not just a timid drizzle—a nice enough downpour that the highly prepared groundbreaking committee had to break out their garbage-can full of umbrellas.

So much for keeping my notes and souvenir program dry—or my clothes or my hair. Even my spirits got a tiny bit damp as I wondered why such an historic and otherwise flawless event would be hampered with rain—we were in Arizona after all.

Then, it was Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf’s turn to take the mike, and to teach a quick lesson in meteorology and in matters of spirit-filled living. By then the rain had all-but stopped and the warm reminders began.

“We call this liquid sunshine,” he quipped. And his smile punctuated those words with added rays of positivity.

“We’re from Germany,” he added, noting they were grateful for “any kind of sunshine.”

He continued, saying the rain shower was like the short storms we each experience in life. “They come and they go,” he said.

Just that quickly, he taught me and turned my thoughts back to sunshine and warmth, to the blessings of being sustained through adversity and to the “but for a small moment” promise of always being able to look forward to sunnier, more peaceful days ahead.

His words immediately parted the wispy clouds that had started to gather in my mind, and left me more open to hear what he taught next. Next came the messages of eternity, instructions for how to handle every storm. In his remarks that followed, he taught about temples and testified about the one true way to deal with any type of tempest, which is by turning to the Son. “Listen to the voice of the Spirit and be ready to follow the Savior. ... This will be His house and He will be happy to welcome you to his house.”



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1 Thatcher, Arizona is the hometown of Prophet Spencer W. Kimball, 12th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where you can still find his childhood home on Church Street.



Courtesy of LDS Church Archives

Prophet Spencer W. Kimball, pictured above, was the 12th President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and grew up in Thatcher, Arizona. During the summer, he often worked in Globe, Arizona at a dairy cleaning stalls and milking cows.

5 FUN FACTS

ABOUT THE GRAND CANYON STATE

By Amber Topping
The Beehive

2 The first temple to administer ordinances in a different language than English was the Mesa Arizona Temple. The recommendation came from Joseph Fielding Smith after he went on a tour of the church's Spanish-American mission in 1943. The ordinances were first presented in Spanish in 1945.

3 During World War II, many Navajos from Arizona were enlisted as secret agents because the enemies couldn't understand the Navajo language. Because of that, they protected many military secrets. In 2002, the movie "Windtalkers" was made about these code talkers.

Arizona is a state immersed with a rich history. There's been many famous Arizonans including rock singer Stevie Nicks and film star Emma Stone as well as an exciting past including the infamous O.K. Corral gunfight. But that's just the tip of the iceberg.

To celebrate our beautiful state, here are some fun and interesting factoids about Arizona to fascinating tidbits and stories connected to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In all, there's a lot to learn about the Grand Canyon State.

4 Women in Arizona received the right to vote in 1912, eight years before the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified.

5 The traditional English Nursery Rhyme, London Bridge is Falling Down (while rooted in earlier myths) came true in the 1960s when the infamous bridge began to sink into the Thames River. The bridge was soon replaced with a more solid structure. However, England put the stones up for sale. Eventually, the original London Bridge was shipped stone by stone and reassembled in Lake Havasu City, Arizona over a lagoon.



Public Domain, Photo by Jon Sullivan

This Lake Havasu Bridge opened in 1971, but was in fact originally the London Bridge. When it began to sink into the Thames River, a new bridge was built, while the original stones were shipped to Arizona after they were bought by Robert P. McCulloch Sr.

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Entrepreneurial Spirit Fuels Family-owned STORE

By Robin Finlinson
The Beehive

At age 17, Jonathan Freedman asked if he could buy the overstock items of a popular clothing brand near his home in New York. He then sold them to friends for a profit.

Soon afterward, Jonathan joined his two older brothers, Charlie and Bill, at Brigham Young University in Provo, where the trio sold liquidated clothing and home furnishings. The first store of their own, DownEast Outfitters, opened in 1991.

"Now, every company has an outlet," says Jonathan. "Back in the early '90s, it was a real novelty."

The company name is a nod to their roots. Growing up in New York, they would often drive up the breathtaking coast of Maine and enjoy whitewater rafting and kayaking. The "Down East State" is one of Maine's nicknames.

Each brother served an LDS mission, and, while many years have

passed since they started their business, and they still work happily together. Jonathan now oversees their own clothing production, and Bill manages furniture production. With his law degree, Charlie is their general counsel and handles the company's expansion.

Their mentor and "personal Yoda," as Jonathan calls him, is their father, Eugene.

"He's always encouraged us to be industrious and creative. He's a lifelong entrepreneur himself." In fact, as a young man, Eugene noticed that cosmetics for African American women's skin tones weren't available. And he had searched throughout the world. He was the first person to develop and sell them. Eugene is chairman of the board at DownEast.

Marketing director Amanda Apple says of the Freedmans, "They've never been a single dollar in debt. They're just very smart businessmen."



Photo courtesy Amanda Apple

Three brothers (l to r), Charlie, Jonathan, and Bill Freedman, who started DownEast Outfitters in 1991, now are owners of 67 stores in seven states.

The family doesn't like to overpay. "We were our own customer," Jonathan says. They are committed to their tagline, "high-style, low-price."

Currently, 67 stores dot seven western states. With a new store in North Phoenix, Arizona now hosts 10 of them. They plan to add 10 to 15 stores each year over the next several years, and propel eastward.

The DownEast clothing label is sold at locations called DownEast Basics, often found in malls.

DownEast Home and Clothing stores carry full furniture and clothing collections. Besides DownEast Basics and girls' apparel, called Penny Candy,

they offer liquidated name brand clothing from other vendors for women, girls, and men. Furniture and home accessories are sold too.

"It's very charming furniture," says Amanda, speaking of their own creations. And, yes, home decor treasures from other popular name brands are found at significantly reduced prices.

Amanda says they'll have new "door busters" every Friday in December. At extremely low prices and limited quantity, those attractive items will quickly go out the door to lucky shoppers, she says.

Visit www.downeastbasics.com to shop or for store locations.



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The Gould Group

Brings Expertise & Experience in an Ever Changing Market

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

The Gould Group, award-winning realtors, includes the dynamic mother-daughter team of Penny Gould and Shannon Vowles. Their business is largely driven by referrals, a testament to the value they bring their clients.

With the changes in the Arizona real estate market over the past years, The Gould Group has helped buyers and sellers adapt.

"Many homeowners have once again found equity in their homes and are ready to sell and move into a larger home," Penny says. "New construction homes have now become another great option for homebuyers."

"There are many new home communities throughout the Valley," Shannon adds. "It is important for buyers to have their own representation when visiting the sales office. We are oftentimes able to negotiate additional incentives that

are not traditionally offered to buyers."

The Gould Group is dedicated to helping sellers and to assisting buyers as well.

Shannon says, "Buying or selling a home can be one of the most stressful experiences. From the sometimes frustrating lending process buyers are navigating, to the sellers trying to maximize their profit while relocating, we try to be sensitive to these issues and work hard to provide the best customer service. We want our clients to have the best experience possible whether buying or selling their home."

New construction home buyer, Peter Quinn, says, "From stories I have heard, I was worried about the home purchasing process. However, with The Gould Group, I felt nothing but at ease. They were with me the entire way at any point of the process. They explained everything with such detail, but also so it was



Photo by Carol Cefalu

The Gould Group is made up of the mother-daughter team of Penny Gould and Shannon Vowles, award-winning realtors, who help buyers and sellers navigate the constantly changing Arizona real estate market.

easily understood. If you need a realtor, choose The Gould Group, and you won't have to look any further!"

Penny and Shannon are members of the Southeast Valley Regional Association of Realtors, and also continue to be leaders in the luxury home and land markets. Continuously acknowledged for her dedication, Penny received the Keller Williams Values & Ethics

award, was nominated for Keller Williams Cultural Icon Award, and designated a "Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist" and member of the Graduate REALTOR® Institute (GRI). In 2014 they were ranked in the top 2 percent of realtors in Phoenix based on production.

Though consistently recognized for their knowledge and ethics, they say most rewarding for them is winning their clients' trust and confidence.

Emily Strom comments, "I work at a title company and work with Penny and Shannon on a regular basis. They are extremely knowledgeable and a pleasure to work with. They are the realtors I used when I purchased my house. I have recom-

mended them to friends that ended up working with them and were extremely happy with the job they did for them as well. If you are buying or selling a home, they are the realtors you want to use."

For more information about the current real estate market, call The Gould Group at 480-600-3663 or visit www.TheGouldGroup.org.

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Helping Families, Changing Lives

By Ann Barnes
The Beehive

Every day someone is faced with a life changing decision of having to either endure a seemingly hopeless situation or find themselves out on the street with nowhere to turn. But thanks to non-profit organizations such as A New Leaf, there is a place to turn.

A New Leaf has been extending a helping hand since 1971 when it was founded by educators Dorothy Mitchell and Larry Spears. In the course of tutoring students, they became aware of other needs facing their students and their families, and thus A New Leaf evolved. With twenty different

locations around the valley, A New Leaf provides services for thousands of men, women, and children who otherwise would be left without hope. The organization remains committed to the mission "Helping Families...Changing Lives."

A New Leaf provides homeless shelters such as the East Valley Women's Center, La Mesita Family Homeless Shelter, and the East Valley Men's Center, and domestic victim's shelters such as the Faith Based Domestic Violence Shelter in the west valley and the Autumn House in the east valley. Other services include Affordable Supporting Housing and Youth and Behavioral Services.

The organization looks to the community for help to meet the needs of these shelters and support groups. Donation drives and one-time group projects are good for youth, church and family service projects. Donation drives are on a yearly schedule listed on the website, but donations are needed and welcomed any time ac-

cording to Bridget Talty, Development Coordinator.

Donations of new items can be taken to La Mesita. They especially need bath towels, twin sheets, non-perishable food, and paper products. Victims of domestic violence most often arrive at a shelter with nothing. These donations not only help during their stay at a shelter but will go with them when they leave and set up their own living space. Donations of pots and pans that are in good condition are also accepted. Eagle Scout projects can include but are not limited to water bottle drives, food drives and especially construction skills. "We are open to any and all ideas for Eagle projects," says Bridget.

Volunteers to prepare meals and sack lunches for the East Valley Men's Center's 94 residents are always needed. Skills such as giving haircuts, legal consultation, dental hygiene, resume and job interview preparation and budget coaching are also needed. Volunteer staff assistance includes front desk and phone help, clerical work, sorting dona-



tions, packing food boxes, dispensing basic needs supplies and professional services like graphic design, printing, photography, and video production are especially in demand.

"We depend on the LDS community significantly," says Bridget, "and you are a huge resource for us. You are friends that we can count on. You come with a kind heart." She goes on to say that, "A New Leaf couldn't do all that we do without the help of the community. It's what makes us able to help others." Contact Bridget Talty or Margaret Taylor at 480-464-4648 to learn more about scheduling for meals and the sack lunch program or visit www.turnanewleaf.org for information about donation drives and Eagle projects.

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Mormon Tabernacle Choir

2015

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Broadway star Laura Osnes will join the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square for their popular annual Christmas concerts on December 17, 18, and 19 in the Conference Center in Salt Lake City. Taking the stage with Osnes will be acclaimed British screen and voice actor Martin Jarvis.

Osnes and Jarvis will be joined by four Metropolitan Opera soloists—Erin Morley, soprano; Tamara Mumford, mezzo-soprano; Ben Bliss, tenor; and Tyler Simpson, bass—adding a classical dimension to the musical repertoire. The concerts are under the direction of Mack Wilberg, music director of the choir, and Ryan Murphy, associate music director.

“This is going to be an unforgettable concert,” said Ron Jarrett, president of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. “Where else can you find such a depth of talent in all performing disciplines all on one stage? We are truly blessed to have

this fabulous ensemble of artists spend Christmas with us.”

The free performances are arguably the hottest tickets in town during the Christmas season, and this year will be no exception. “We are overwhelmed and humbled by the response of our audiences each year,” said Wilberg.

Osnes is an award-winning Broadway actress with long list of credits not only from the New York stage but also from the Hollywood screen. She was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Leading Actress for her role in Rodgers & Hammerstein’s *Cinderella*. She won the Drama Desk Award for her work in *Cinderella* that same year and also had a Tony nomination for *Bonnie and Clyde* in 2012.

Martin Jarvis has a countless string of accolades in his career, with performances in the United States and the UK where he has appeared on Broadway and the West End, in movies and television, and voicing animated productions.



Photos courtesy of LDS.org



He received the Theatre World Award for his starring role as Jeeves on Broadway, which was also filmed for PBS.

He appeared as Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon in the multi-Oscar-winning *Titanic* and lent his voice to Disney’s *Wreck-It Ralph*. Martin is invested by the Queen of England as an OBE (Officer of the British Empire) for his services to drama.

The Grammy Award-winning, all-volunteer Mormon Tabernacle Choir is made up of 360 men and women who join their talents to create their trademark, instantly recognizable sound. They are accompanied by the Orchestra at Temple Square, a 150-member symphony that is likewise all volunteer.

The choir has appeared at 13 world’s fairs and expositions, performed at six U.S. presidential inaugu-

rals, and sung for numerous worldwide telecasts and special events—all this while broadcasting Music and the Spoken Word, the oldest continuing radio network broadcast, a weekly tradition now in its 87th year. The choir has its own recording label and has just released the CD and DVD versions of last year’s Christmas concerts with the Muppets® from Sesame Street® and Santino Fontana, titled Keep Christmas with You.

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Popular places to shop for **FOOD STORAGE**

By Ann Barnes
The Beehive

Shopping. Sometimes it can be a love/hate relationship, particularly when it comes to purchasing items for either starting or adding to a year or three month supply of food. Shopping for your supply does take some planning. Before shopping, hold a family home evening planning meeting and get members of the family involved. Plans should be made based on the food likes and dislikes of each person. Besides meal suggestions, special dietary needs or restrictions should also be discussed. Other things to consider are how much food, water storage, medication, household commodities and personal care products for each person is needed.

After planning and making the list where do you go from there? Besides your local grocery store, there's Costco, Sam's Club, Winco, Sprouts, Whole Foods, and the #10 can section of the larger Walmart stores. Items in this section vary with each store. There are also stores that specialize in food storage supplies and bulk and prepackaged food.

One such store is Honeyville Farms. Located in Tempe, they offer cooking and food storage classes as well as dried foods, grains and seeds, storage containers, cooking and baking tools, and bulk foods. You can also shop on line. Learn more about them at www.honeyville.com

Preparing Wisely, located in Mesa has classes and video demonstrations of tools, solar kits, grain mills, how to use a sun oven, and other supplies in conjunction with packaged and bulk food storage. To learn more about visit www.preparingwisely.com.

Thrive, formerly known as Shelf Reliance, doesn't maintain a store but has freeze-dried fruit, vegetables, dairy and several other products in #10 cans or a small container called a pantry can that can be ordered online. Google "Thrive" to learn more about what they offer and how to order. All three of these companies have gluten-free and non-GMO foods.

The Mesa Cannery, (Mesa Home Storage Center) which is open to the

public, is a good source for dry goods. Most items come in the #10 cans, but there are also bulk items such as black, white, and refried beans, onions, and hard red and white wheat. Canning your own product before purchase is no longer required. An order form for food storage products is available online at www.providentliving.org. Cannery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Planned storage in the home can help individuals and families be self-sustaining in whatever situation they meet. Accident, illness, unemployment, or commodity shortage may affect any family at any time. Wars, depressions, famines, earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes are also possibilities to consider in planning for the care and protection of the family." (Taken from Essentials of Home Production & Storage, published by the Church, 1978.)

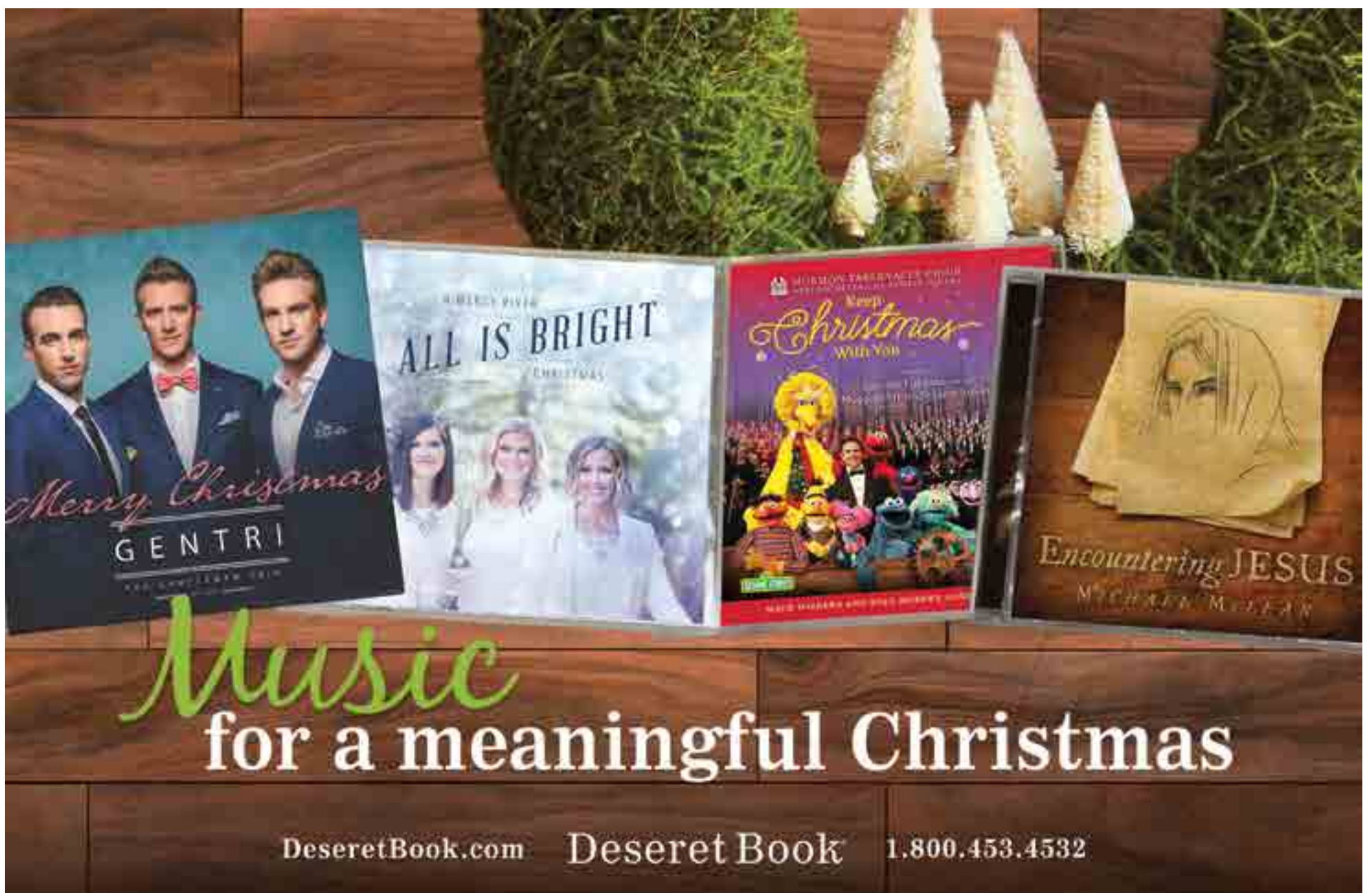
Visit www.lds.org/topics/food-storage where you can watch a short video about food storage. There are also links to additional resources.

Distinguished Journalist Writes About Mormon Preparedness

In his recently released book titled "Lights Out," distinguished journalist Ted Koppel explores the challenges the United States would have if there were widespread power outages caused by a cyberattack.

The book includes three chapters discussing the history and efforts of preparedness by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members. Mr. Koppel writes, "What distinguishes the Mormons is their extraordinary focus on the integration of self-sufficiency and charity." He adds, "The LDS church has set world-class standards for disaster preparedness and imbued its membership with a sense of individual and group responsibility."

As part of his research Mr. Koppel spent several days visiting Utah including Church headquarters and its facilities. We recognize his significant work to explore, research and gain greater understanding of our faith, organization and efforts to ensure Church members are prepared for life's uncertainties.



The image shows a wooden display shelf with several Christmas-themed books and decorations. On the left, there are three small white Christmas trees. In the center, there are four books standing upright. From left to right, the books are: "Merry Christmas GENTRI" featuring three men in suits, "ALL IS BRIGHT CHRISTMAS" featuring three women in white dresses, "Keep Christmas With You" featuring a cartoon character, and "Encountering JESUS" featuring a portrait of a woman. Below the books, the text "Music for a meaningful Christmas" is written in a green cursive font. At the bottom of the shelf, the text "DeseretBook.com Deseret Book 1.800.453.4532" is displayed.

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Elder Uchtdorf Presides at Tucson Temple Groundbreaking



Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, second counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and his wife, Harriet, were interviewed by the media following the Tucson Temple groundbreaking ceremony. Afterwards, they took time to personally greet and shake hands with all those in attendance who wished to do so.

Photos by John Power, Biltmore Photo



Sister Harriet Uchtdorf and Elder Dieter Uchtdorf, second counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (center) are joined (on their right) by Elder Kent F. Richards, executive director of the Temple Department, and his wife, Marsha, and other dignitaries as they turn over the first shovelfuls of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Tucson Arizona Temple.